

In The CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A weatherproof pet feeder for placing outdoors to provide feed and water for a small animal, the weatherproof pet feeder comprising:

a feeder base having an entrance section with an open forward end for receiving the animal, and a feeder section which the animal accesses after passing
5 into the open forward end of the feeder base;

wherein said feeder base has a substantially planer shape which is horizontally disposed, said entrance section being defined by an entrance slot which extends into said substantially planar shape and defines a U-shaped entrance, said entrance slot extending into said feeder base approximately two-thirds of a
10 longitudinal length of said feeder base;

support legs extending downward from said feeder base to a ground surface and suspending said feeder base above the ground surface;

an enclosure having a front opening for receiving the animal and an enclosed rearward end, said enclosure fitting over said entrance section and said feeder section
15 of said feeder base, with said front opening registering with said open forward end of said entrance section of said feeder base and said enclosed rearward end enclosing said feeder section of said feeder base; and

means for securing said enclosure to said feeder base, such that said enclosure is moveable relative to said feeder base for accessing said feeder section.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 1, wherein said enclosure has an exterior surface with a top defining a crest which extends from said enclosed rearward end to said front opening, said crest having a rearward ridge defined atop said closed rearward end and a forward ridge disposed adjacent to said
5 front opening, and said crest sloping downward from said rearward ridge and downward from said forward ridge to an intermediate portion, disposed between said forward ridge and said rearward ridge.

4. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 1, wherein said feeder section includes two bowl sockets for receiving a feed bowl and a water bowl, respectively.

5 5. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 1, wherein said means for securing comprises a hinge which pivotally secures said enclosure to said feeder base, said hinge having a plurality of hinge loops with a first portion of said hinge loops extending from said enclosure and a second portion of said hinge loops extending from said feeder base, and a removable pin which extends within said hinge loops to pivotally secure first portion of said hinge loops to said second portion of said hinge loops, and said means for securing further comprises a latch for releasibly securing said enclosure in a downward position relative to said feeder base.

6. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 1, wherein said feeder section of said feeder base includes a heating element disposed with one of said bowl sockets for warming a water bowl when received within said one of said bowl sockets.

7. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 6, wherein said heating element is an electric heating element, and said weatherproof pet feeder further comprises a battery pack mounted to said feeder base for powering said electric heating element.

5 8. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 1, wherein said support legs include leg sections and mounting feet, with said leg sections being coupled to said mounting feet and said feeder base, and a quantity of said leg sections used in each of said support legs being selectively determined to select overall lengths of respective ones of said support legs.

9. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 8, wherein said leg sections include insecticide bands which comprise strips of absorbent material which are adhesively secured to respective ones of said support legs between the ground surface and said feeder base, said absorbent strips being treated with an insecticide.

10. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 8, wherein said leg sections of said support legs are of tubular shape, and said support legs further comprise seal members for securing to lower ends of respective ones of said leg sections for securing weighting material within said leg sections.

11. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 10, wherein said legs sections further include mounting feet, and said mounting feet have apertures for receiving stakes to secure said mounting feet and said feeder base to the ground surface; and

5 said feeder base has a plurality of tie down loops for securing said feeder base in position relative to the ground surface.

12. (Original) A weatherproof pet feeder for placing outdoors to provide feed and water for a small animal, the weatherproof pet feeder comprising:

5 a feeder base having a substantially planer shape which is horizontally disposed, said substantially planar shape having an entrance section defined by an entrance slot which extends into said substantially planar shape and defines a U-shaped entrance, said entrance slot extending into said feeder base approximately two-thirds of a longitudinal length of said feeder base, and said feeder base having a feeder section having two bowl sockets for receiving a feed bowl and a water bowl, respectively;

10 an enclosure having a front opening for receiving the animal and an enclosed rearward end, said enclosure fitting over said feeder base, with said front opening registering with said entrance slot and said enclosed rearward end covering said feeder section of said feeder base;

15 said enclosure having an exterior surface with a top defining a crest which extends from said enclosed rearward end to said front opening, said crest having a rearward ridge defined atop said closed rearward end and a forward ridge disposed adjacent to said front opening, and said crest sloping downward from said rearward ridge and downward from said forward ridge to an intermediate portion, disposed between said forward ridge and said rearward ridge;

20 means for securing said enclosure to said feeder base, such that said enclosure is moveable relative to said feeder base for accessing said feeder section; and

support legs extending downward from said feeder base to a ground surface.

13. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 12, wherein said means for securing comprises a hinge which pivotally secures said enclosure to said feeder base, said hinge having a plurality of hinge loops with a first portion of said hinge loops extending from said enclosure and a second portion of said hinge loops
5 extending from said feeder base, and a removable pin which extends within said hinge loops to pivotally secure first portion of said hinge loops to said second portion

of said hinge loops.

14. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 12, wherein said feeder section of said feeder base includes an electric heating element disposed with one of said bowl sockets for warming a water bowl when received within said one of said bowl sockets.

15. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 12, wherein said support legs include leg sections and mounting feet, with said leg sections being coupled to said mounting feet and said feeder base, and a quantity of said leg sections used in each of said support legs being selectively determined to select overall lengths of respective ones of said support legs.

16. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 15, wherein said leg sections of said support legs are of tubular shape, and said support legs further comprise seal members for securing to lower ends of respective ones of said leg sections for securing weighting material within said leg sections.

17. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 16, further comprising said feeder base having tie down loops for securing said feeder base in position relative to the ground surface;

said mounting feet have apertures for receiving stakes to secure said mounting feet and said feeder base to the ground surface; and

said leg sections include insecticide bands which comprise strips of absorbent material which are adhesively secured to respective ones of said support legs between the ground surface and said feeder base, said absorbent strips being treated with an insecticide.

18. (Original) A weatherproof pet feeder, comprising:

5 a feeder base having a horizontally disposed, generally planar shape, an entrance section with an open forward end defined by a slot which extends approximately two-thirds of a longitudinal length of said feeder base into said planar shape of said feeder base to a feeder section, said entrance section to have a generally U-shape with opposite sides of said open forward end ranging from one and one-half inches to two inches in wide;

10 said feeder section of said feeder base extending approximately one-third of said longitudinal length of said feeder base and disposed at a rearward end of said feeder base, said feeder section including a feed bowl socket and a water bowl socket which extend upward from a horizontal plane defined by said generally planar shape of said feeder base for approximately three inches, said feed bowl socket and said water bowl socket extending across a width of most of said feeder section;

15 two plastic coated stainless steel bowls having large curved brims that overlap respective ones of rims of said feed and water bowl sockets, said bowls being approximately three inches tall and removably fitting snugly into said feed and water bowl sockets;

20 an electric heating element disposed proximate to one of said feed and water bowl sockets, wherein said heating element is a cage-like heating element which is encased in one of said bowl sockets, and said bowl socket being sealed for containing water therein such that said one of said bowl sockets may be used for storing water, and said electric heating element is disposed on sides and a bottom of said one of said bowl sockets;

25 an enclosure fitting over said entire feeder base, said enclosure having a front opening and an enclosed rearward end, said enclosed rearward end being of a substantially rounded shape for fitting over said feeder section, and said enclosed rearward end being higher than a forward portion of an upper surface of said enclosure and being rounded for providing head space for a feeding animal, and a rearward portion of said enclosed rearward of said enclosure being extending
30 vertically and being of a substantially flat shape;

said upper surface of said enclosure having a top which defines a crest which includes two ridges, a first one of said two ridges disposed above said feeder section and adjacent to said enclosed rearward end and extending forward toward said open forward end, leveling out to a second one of said two ridges, and said second one of said two ridges rising to an uppermost surface of said open forward end, and curving downward and forming an overhang at a front opening of said enclosure, said overhang extending downward from said uppermost surface of said open forward end approximately two inches to form a top portion of said front opening of said enclosure;

a grip handle disposed on said upper surface of said enclosed rearward end, said grip handle being formed of plastic into a round bar with one-inch curved ends which elevate said grip handle one inch from said upper surface to provide a hand grip, and being approximately between three to four inches long, said grip handle running lengthwise with a length of said enclosure and said feeder base, and being positioned on a rearward end of said crest defined by said top of said exterior surface of said enclosure;

said latches being disposed one on each side of said enclosure, toward a forward end of said enclosure, and having lower ends which are flanged to grip an underside of said feeder base;

an electric power cord being a heavy duty flexible steel-wrapped power cord; a power connector adjacent to said storage compartment, and connects heating element to power source via power cord;

a battery pack-stored in side of storage compartment under water bowl socket for providing alternative electrical power to said heating element encased in the water bowl socket so that power cord maybe stored away in storage compartment;

a control unit connecting said battery pack to said heating element, said control unit including a temperature regulator for maintaining a temperature of the water in said one of said bowl sockets above 32 degrees F;

a storage compartment disposed beneath said feeder section of said feeder

60 base, said storage compartment having a middle divider to define two sections of
said storage compartment, a first one of said two sections being disposed beneath
said feed bowl socket for storing said electric power cord, and a second one of said
two compartments disposed beneath said water bowl socket and storing said battery
pack;

65 a storage compartment door covering both said first and second sections of
said storage compartment and said power connector disposed adjacent to said storage
compartment, said storage compartment door extending across said width of a
rearward end of said feeder base;

said storage compartment being one inch to one and one-half inches tall and
70 disposed at least one inch above a ground surface;

a hinge having a first set of loops disposed on said rearward portion of said
enclosure and a second set of hinge loops disposed on a rearward end of said feeder
base, said first and second loops inter-fitting and extending around a hinge pin which
extends along said width of said feeder base, said hinge pin being removable such
75 that said enclosure can be disconnected from said feeder base, wherein said hinge
and said hinge pin extend for a complete width of said rearward said feeder base and
said enclosure;

tie down loops extending from said feeder base, wherein respective ones of
said tie down loops are disposed on each side of a forward end of said feeder base,
80 respective ones of said tied down loops are disposed on each side of feeder base
proximate to said feeder section, and two of said tie down loops are disposed on a
rearward end of said feeder base;

said feeder base including support leg sockets disposed at each corner of said
feeder base, said support leg sockets extending two and one-half inches beneath a
85 main body portion of said feeder base and said support leg sockets being two and
one-half inches in diameter, said support leg sockets having interior threads for
threadingly securing said support legs thereto, wherein said support leg sockets
elevate said feeder base approximately two and one-half inches above a ground

surface;

90 said support legs having leg sections, nipples with center dividers that serve
as end seals, and wide-based mounting feet with two and one-half inch high tubular
portions and apertures for receiving stakes, said leg sections being tubular-shaped
and having interior passages for holding a weighting material, upper ends of said leg
sections having exterior threads for threadingly securing to respective ones of said
95 support sockets of said feeder base and threadingly securing to interior threads of a
lower end of an adjacent leg section, and lower ends having interior threads for
threadingly securing to exterior threads of an upper end of an adjacent leg section
and to exterior threads of nipple, and wherein said leg sections are preferably no
longer than eight inches tall and two and one-half inches in diameter;

100 said nipples having exterior threaded upper end sections for securing to
internal threaded lower ends of leg sections, and exterior threaded lower end sections
for securing to interior threaded tubular portion of mounting feet, and center dividers
providing end seals to seal a weighting material within said leg sections;

105 said wide-base mounting feet having a wide-based solid bottom, interior
threads inside a tubular portion thereof for receiving exterior threads of said nipples,
apertures for receiving said stakes, formed as one continuous piece, and said
mounting feet being two and one-half inches tall and a two and five-eighths inch
diameter tubular portion;

110 said stakes being three inches long, and inserted through apertures in said
mounting feet and into a ground surface for securing said mounting feet to the
ground surface; and

115 insecticide bands formed of strips of absorbent material two inches wide,
eight and one-quarter inches long, and one-eighth inch thick, wherein said absorbent
material of said insecticide bands is impregnated with insecticide and an adhesive
backing is applied to one side of said absorbent material, and a wax-like paper
protective backing is secured against said adhesive backing for removal prior to said
insecticide bands being installed onto respective ones of said support legs, and

wherein said insecticide bands are installed to said support legs by wrapping said insecticide bands around said support legs to prevent insects from contaminating feed and water disposed in said feeder section.

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19. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 18, further comprising three-quarter inch tall low profile bowls, formed of plastic coated stainless steel, or other suitable material, for feeding smaller animals.

20. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 18, wherein said enclosure is formed of unbreakable plastic, preferably of colors which are of a clear or light tinted shades such that the amount of water and feed remaining in said feeder section may be visually inspected through said enclosure.

21. (Original) The weatherproof pet feeder according to Claim 18, wherein said feeder base, including bowl sockets, are formed of one-fourth inch to one-half inch hard, colored plastic capable of withstanding low, direct heat.